

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 107

By Black

A RESOLUTION to designate May 7, 2009 as “Tennessee Day of Prayer.”

WHEREAS, our nation was founded upon venerable religious principles, and our nation has no doubt been blessed by the diligent prayer of faithful believers; and

WHEREAS, it is proper that this General Assembly should recognize the vital role religion and prayer have played in our nation’s history; and

WHEREAS, in 1775, prior to the founding of the United States of America, the Continental Congress issued a proclamation setting aside a time for prayer in forming a new nation; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln called for a day of prayer, and Franklin Roosevelt declared a national day of prayer on June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS, the “National Day of Prayer” was officially established as an annual event in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan amended the law, permanently designating the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan admonished Americans to “join together as people of many faiths to petition God to show us His mercy and His love, to heal our weariness and uphold our hope, that we might live ever mindful of His justice and thankful for His blessing”; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan further urged “the citizens of this great nation to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity of hearts of all mankind”; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush proclaimed a day of prayer and remembrance following the events of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, President Bush and the governors of all fifty states have signed proclamations encouraging all Americans to pray on the “National Day of Prayer”; and

WHEREAS, citizens across Tennessee constantly pray for God’s protection of this great State and nation and pray that God will guide and grant wisdom to our leaders; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly encourages the citizens of Tennessee to join in this recognition and observance of prayer and the integral role it plays in welfare of this State; and

WHEREAS, at a time when this nation faces difficult challenges, a “Tennessee Day of Prayer,” coinciding with the “National Day of Prayer,” will serve as a reminder of the glorious riches and ineffable blessings God has bestowed upon all of us; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that for the purposes delineated in the preamble of this resolution, May 7, 2009, is hereby designated as “Tennessee Day of Prayer.” We urge all Tennesseans to observe “Tennessee Day of Prayer” in accordance with their respective faiths.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.